WIND ERODIBILITY GROUPS (I)

Soil erodibility by wind is directly related to the percentage of dry nonerodible surface soil aggregates larger than 0.84 mm in diameter. From this percentage, the wind erodibility index ("I" factor) is determined. The "I" factor is an expression of the stability of these soil aggregates against breakdown by tillage and abrasion from wind erosion. Soils are placed in Wind Erodibility Groups (WEG) having similar percentages of dry soil aggregates larger than 0.84 mm as shown in the following table.

WEG	Properties of Soil Surface Layer	Dry Soil Aggregates >0.84mm Percent	Wind Erod. Index (I) T/Ac/Yr
1	Very fine sand, fine sand, sand, or coarse sand.	1	310 (a)
		2	250
		3	220
		5	180
		7	160
2	Loamy very fine sand, loamy fine sand, loamy sand, loamy coarse sand, or sapric (1) organic soil materials.	10	134
3	Very fine sandy loam, fine sandy loam, sandy loam, or coarse sandy loamy.	25	86
4	Clay, silty clay, noncalcareous clay loam, or silty clay loam with >35 percent clay content.	25	86
4L	Calcareous (b) loam, silt loam, clay loam, or silty clay loam.	25	86
5	Non calcareous loam and silt loam with <20 percent clay content, or sandy clay loam, sandy clay, and hemic (1) organic soil materials.	40	56
6	Noncalcareous loam and silt loam with >20 percent clay content, or noncalcareous clay loam with <35 percent clay content.	45	48
7	Silt, noncalcareous silty clay loam with >35 percent clay content and fibric (1) organic soil material.	50	38
8	Soils not susceptible to wind erosion due to coarse fragments or wetness	--	0

(1) See Soil Taxonomy for definition.

(a) The “I” values for WEG 1 vary from 160 for coarse sands to 310 for very fine sands. An “I” value of 220 is an average figure.

(b) Calcareous is a strongly or violently effervescent reaction of the surface soil to cold 1N HCL

The wind erodibility groups for soil map units in each county are listed in Section I, Resources and Evaluation Tools, in the Soils Section – Guide to Interpretive Groups (Table 1).